

We Claim:

Sub A

1. A kit comprising
a device for treating a tissue region,
a usage key card to be handled separate
from the device comprising a storage medium
formatted to contain an identification code unique
to the usage key card, the usage key card being
adapted to be read by a reader separate from the
device to download the identification code for
processing by a controller for the device to enable
operation of the device in association with the
controller according to prescribed criteria, and
packaging for containing the device and the
usage key card.
2. A kit according to claim 1
wherein the usage key card comprises a
floppy disk.
3. A kit according to claim 1
wherein the usage key card comprises a PC
card.
4. A kit according to claim 1
wherein the usage key card comprises a
magnetic card.
5. A kit according to claim 1
wherein the usage key card comprises flash
memory.
6. A kit according to claim 1
wherein the storage medium is also
formatted, when inserted into the reader, to retain
data generated by the controller during operation of
the device.
7. A kit according to claim 6

wherein the data pertains to operating conditions of the device.

8. A kit according to claim 6 wherein the usage key card is adapted to be read by a reader to download the data to a data processing device separate from the controller.

9. A kit according to claim 1 further including instructions contained in the packaging directing reading of the usage key card by the reader to download the identification code to the controller for processing to enable or disable operation of the device according to prescribed criteria.

10. A kit according to claim 1 wherein the device applies radio frequency energy to the tissue region.

11. A system for controlling use of a device for treating a tissue region comprising a controller to control operation of the device,

a reader to download information to the controller,

a usage key card adapted to be handled separate from the device and comprising a storage medium formatted to contain an identification code unique to the usage key card that, upon reading by the reader, is downloaded to the controller, and

the controller including a processing function for processing the identification code to either enable or disable operation of the device according to prescribed criteria.

12. A system according to claim 11

wherein the processing function causes the controller to create a table by registering unlike identification codes in memory as they are downloaded by the reader and to enable operation of the device when a new identification code is registered in the table.

13. A system according to claim 12 wherein the processing function causes the controller to compare a given identification code downloaded by the reader to all identification codes registered in the table and to register the given identification code in the table when the given identification code does not match any identification code in the table.

14. A system according to claim 13 wherein the processing function causes the controller to disable operation of the device when the given identification code matches an identification code in the table.

15. A system according to claim 13 wherein the processing function causes the controller to enable operation of the device when the given identification code does not match any identification code in the table.

16. A system according to claim 11 wherein the device applies radio frequency energy to the tissue region.

17. A method for controlling use of a device for treating a tissue region comprising the steps of

providing a kit containing the device and a usage key card adapted to be handled separate from

the device and comprising a storage medium formatted to contain an identification code unique to the usage key card,

instructing reading of the usage key card by a reader separate from the device to download the identification code to a controller for the device, and

causing the controller to process the identification code by pre-programmed rules to either enable or disable operation of the device.

18. A method according to claim 17

wherein the pre-programmed rules cause the controller to create a table by registering unlike identification codes in memory as they are downloaded by the reader and to enable operation of the device when a new identification code is registered in the table.

19. A method according to claim 18

wherein the pre-programmed rules cause the controller to compare a given identification code downloaded by the reader to all identification codes registered in the table and to register the given identification code in the table when the given identification code does not match any identification code in the table.

20. A method according to claim 18

wherein the pre-programmed rules cause the controller to disable operation of the device when the given identification code matches an identification code in the table.

21. A method according to claim 18

wherein the pre-programmed rules cause the

controller to enable operation of the device when the given identification code does not match any identification code in the table.

22. A method according to claim 17 wherein the device, during use, applies radio frequency energy to the tissue region.